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NI-881-77 14 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

FROM

: Acting NIO for Latin America

SUBJECT

: Presidential Priorities -- Latin America

1. The Latin American issues which have been defined as being Presidential priorities are: Cuban activities abroad to expand its influence, Cuban fallback positions in negotiations with the United States, Panama's fallback positions in negotiations for a new Canal Treaty,

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- 2. Papers Under Way: We currently have one Interagency Intelligence Memorandum (IIM) in process entitled "Political and Economic Trends in the Caribbean". It is now in its final stage and should be printed and distributed next week.
- 3. Papers Planned: I have yesterday initiated another IIM concerning Cuban support for extremist organizations, which is designed to assist US negotiators in dealing with this question in talks with the Cubans. It is due for completion in mid-May 1977.
- Suggested Approach to the President: One way that we could show the President how we can assist him could be to identify for him impending foreign developments which are likely to have beneficial or harmful effects on US national interests, and we could identify the interests affected. This would serve to alert him to opportunities or dangers in the offing.

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